

CLAIM SUMMARY DOCUMENT

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush comprising a head portion with a brush portion located on a brush surface thereof of the head portion, a toothbrush body, and a shaft that connects the head portion and the toothbrush body, the head portion including an opposed surface that is directly opposed to the brush surface of the head portion, and the head portion including a side surface that is located between and spaces the opposed surface from the brush surface of the head portion.

the toothbrush body being provided with light emitting means to irradiate light toward the head portion, the shaft being structured to permit the light to transmit or pass along a longitudinal axis of the shaft therethrough,

at least a surface of the head portion including an elastic portion located thereon, the elastic portion being relatively more elastic than the head portion, and the elastic portion being located at least at a part of the side surface of the head portion and defining an opening in the elastic portion at a location that intersects with the longitudinal axis of the shaft, and

a tip end of the head portion not including the elastic portion located thereon and thereby provided with a tip-end light transmitting portion that intersects with the longitudinal axis of the shaft and is configured to transmit light received from the light emitting means outside of the head portion to illuminate an interior of an oral cavity.

2. (Currently Amended) The toothbrush according to claim 1, wherein the brush surface of the head portion on which the brush portion is provided does not include the elastic portion and is thereby formed with a brush-portion light transmitting portion, and at least a part of the opposed surface opposed to the surface of the head portion on which the brush portion is

~~provided~~ does not include the elastic portion and is thereby provided with a back-surface light transmitting portion.

3. (Currently Amended) The toothbrush according to claim 2, wherein ~~the head portion includes sides that have outer peripheries, and~~ the elastic portion is formed on at least a part of ~~the outer peripheries of the sides of the head portion and in~~ a substantially central region of the opposed surface except on the back-surface light transmitting portion.

4. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush according to claim 3, wherein the back-surface light transmitting portion is formed to have a cross section thereof curved from an outer periphery of a back surface of the head portion to a part of the outer peripheries of the sides, and surfaces of the elastic portion project from surfaces of respective light transmitting portions.

5. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush according to claim 1, wherein the elastic portion includes a shaft elastic body on the shaft in the vicinity of the head portion, and a surface of the shaft does not include the elastic body and is thereby provided with a shaft light transmitting portion.

6. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush comprising a head portion with a brush portion, a toothbrush body, and a shaft that connects the head portion and the toothbrush body,

the toothbrush body being provided with a light emitting device configured to irradiate light toward the head portion, the shaft being structured to permit the light to transmit or pass therethrough,

at least a surface of the head portion including an elastic ~~portion~~body, the elastic body being relatively more elastic than the head portion, and

the elastic body being formed from a transparent material.

7. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush according to claim 2, wherein the elastic portion includes a shaft elastic body on the shaft in the vicinity of the head portion, and a surface of the shaft does not include the shaft elastic body and is thereby provided with a shaft light transmitting portion.

8. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush according to claim 3, wherein the elastic portion includes a shaft elastic body on the shaft in the vicinity of the head portion, and a surface of the shaft does not include the elastic body and is thereby provided with a shaft light transmitting portion.

9. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush according to claim 4, wherein the elastic portion includes a shaft elastic body on the shaft in the vicinity of the head portion, and a surface of the shaft does not include the elastic body and is thereby provided with a shaft light transmitting portion.

10. (Currently Amended) A toothbrush comprising a head portion with a brush portion located on a brush surface thereof of the head portion, a toothbrush body, and a shaft that connects the head portion and the toothbrush body, the head portion including an opposed surface that is directly opposed to the brush surface of the head portion, and the head portion including a side surface that is located between and spaces the opposed surface from the brush surface of the head portion,

the toothbrush body being provided with a light emitting device that is configured to irradiate light toward the head portion, the shaft being structured to permit the light to transmit or pass therethrough,

at least a surface of the head portion including an elastic portion located thereon, the elastic portion being relatively more elastic than the head portion, and the elastic portion including a side portion located along the side surface of the head portion and a central portion

located at a substantially central portion of the opposed surface of the head portion and defining an opening in the elastic portion extending about the central portion of the elastic portion and between the central portion and the side portion of the elastic portion such that an opposed back surface light transmitting portion is provided while the central portion of the elastic portion also protects a user from contacting the opposed surface of the head portion, and

a portion of the head portion not including the elastic portion located thereon ~~and is~~ thereby provided with a head portion light transmitting portion that is configured to transmit light received from the light emitting device outside of the head portion to illuminate an interior of an oral cavity.

11. (Currently Amended) The toothbrush according to claim 10, wherein the brush surface of the head portion ~~on which the brush portion is provided~~ does not include the elastic portion and is thereby formed with a brush-portion light transmitting portion, ~~and at least a part of a surface opposed to the surface of the head portion on which the brush portion is provided does not include the elastic portion and is thereby provided with a back surface light transmitting portion.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The toothbrush according to claim 11, wherein the head portion includes sides that have outer peripheries, and the elastic portion is formed on at least a part of the outer peripheries of the sides of the head portion ~~and in a substantially central region of the opposed surface except on the back surface light transmitting portion.~~

13. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush according to claim 12, wherein the back-surface light transmitting portion is formed to have a cross section thereof curved from an outer periphery of a back surface of the head portion to a part of the outer peripheries of the sides, and surfaces of the elastic portion project from surfaces of respective light transmitting portions.

14. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush according to claim 10, wherein the elastic portion includes a shaft elastic body on the shaft in the vicinity of the head portion, and a surface of the shaft does not include the elastic body and is thereby provided with a shaft light transmitting portion.

15. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush according to claim 11, wherein the elastic portion includes a shaft elastic body on the shaft in the vicinity of the head portion, and a surface of the shaft does not include the shaft elastic body and is thereby provided with a shaft light transmitting portion.

16. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush according to claim 12, wherein the elastic portion includes a shaft elastic body on the shaft in the vicinity of the head portion, and a surface of the shaft does not include the elastic body and is thereby provided with a shaft light transmitting portion.

17. (Previously Presented) The toothbrush according to claim 13, wherein the elastic portion includes a shaft elastic body on the shaft in the vicinity of the head portion, and a surface of the shaft does not include the elastic body and is thereby provided with a shaft light transmitting portion.

18. (Currently Amended) The toothbrush according to claim 1, wherein the light emitting means irradiates light along a light emitting axis, and the entire brush portion is spaced from the light emitting axis.

19. (Currently Amended) The toothbrush according to claim 10, wherein the light emitting device irradiates light along a light emitting axis, and the entire brush portion is spaced from the light emitting axis.